



June 10, 2011

Re: SEIU Canada ACWCC supports the 2011 United Way/Centraide Campaign

The United Way is dedicated to improving the quality of life of all people in our communities across Canada by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action.

United Way has demonstrated its leadership in understanding root causes of social issues and bringing together people and resources in order to create real meaningful and positive change.

We need the United Way more today than ever. In the 1950s and 1960s, for example, the real median family income in Canada was growing fast enough to double every 20 years. Since 1980, it has barely grown at all. Middle class families have only managed to maintain their standard of living by working much harder than their parents, typically relying today on two incomes instead of one. Indeed, virtually all the income growth in the last 30 years has gone to the top.

This impact on Canada's social fabric is huge. Recent research shows that less equal societies almost always have more violence, more disease, more mental health problems, higher infant mortality rates, reduced life expectancies, as well as less social cohesion. The effects are most pronounced at the bottom, but are evident throughout the unequal society.

The United Way continues to help those that have found themselves in hard times, overcome the obstacles they are facing and move forward with their lives.

By participating in your local United Way campaign, you too are making sure that the quality of life for all people in your community is continuing to improve.

Without the United Way there would be no way.

To find out more information about how to get active in your local United Way, please go to www.unitedway.ca.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharleen Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharleen Stewart
International Canadian Vice-President

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International Canadian
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